

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 NSC-05 PM-04 ERDA-05

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EB-07 NRC-05 DODE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 H-02 /098 W

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R 231540Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7300

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 12909

RIO DO JANEIRO FOR KRATZER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG PFOR EG US

SUBJ: NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH EGYPT AND ISRAEL

REF: STATE 232891

1. IN MEETING WITH FONMIN FAHMY THIS MORNING, I REVIEWED WITH HIM THE STATUS OF THE NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE INFORMATION. WITH REGARD TO THE MOOD IN CONGRESS CONCERNING NUCLEAR ISSUES, FAHMY SAID THAT WHEN HE HAD LAST DISCUSSED NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENTS FOR EGYPT AND ISRAEL WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, HE HAD FOUND GREAT RECEPTIVITY TO THE IDEA OF A BALANCED APPROACH TO NUCLEAR EXPORTS TO THE MIDDLE EAST. I TOLD HIM THAT WHILE THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE CASE SOME MONTHS AGO, THERE HAD BEEN INCREASING CONCERN OVER THIS ISSUE IN THE CONGRESS. I MENTIONED THAT I HAD RECEIVED INFORMAL NEWS THAT A DELEGATION OF TWELVE SENATORS MIGHT BE COMING TO THE MIDDLE EAST TO DISCUSS NUCLEAR ISSUES; FAHMY HAD ALREADY HEARD OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A VISIT AND HE WOULD BE GLAD TO TALK

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TO THE SENATORS TO EXPLAIN EGYPT'S OBJECTIVES IN

OBTAINING NUCLEAR ENERGY.

2. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION, FAHMY EXPLAINED THAT HIS REFERENCE TO "IMPLEMENTATION" IN HIS LETTER TO AMBASSADOR EILTS (CAIRO 11595) HAD TO DO WITH HIS DESIRE TO ASSURE THAT THE ISRAELIS LIVED UP TO THEIR OBLIGATIONS AND COMMITMENTS UNDER THE NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT. I ASSUED HIM THAT THAT WAS CLEARLY OUR INTENTION. HE AGREED THAT ACTUAL PROVISION OF THE NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS MIGHT NOT BE IDENTICAL IN BOTH COUNTRIES AS TO THEIR NATURE AND TIMING.

3. FAHMY CONCLUDED THAT THERE WAS NO BIG HURRY IN GAINING CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT.

4. COMMENT: I AM NOT AT ALL SURE THAT MINISTER OF ELECTRICITY SULTAN, WHOM I HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO REACH, WOULD AGREE WITH FAHMY'S LACK OF A SENSE OF URGENCY ON THIS MATTER.
MATTHEWS

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